

Students utilizing trash to create bench

Bench to be symbol of sustainability and
experimental education

Sarah



Filip Reese / Aggie

From left to right, Alex Yoshikawa, Devin Gobhart, Brennan Bird, William Roberts and Sarah Khoggani, stuffing plastic bottles with trash to create eco-bricks.

By AMIR BEGOVIC
Aggie News Writer

Brennan Bird is collecting trash to build a symbol of sustainability—a bench made of waste and clay.

Along with four other students, Bird is constructing a bench entirely of Portable Landfill Devices as part of a community and regional development directed group study (CRD 198) that is helping to develop the Sustainable Living Learning Community (SLLC).

"This project represents a symbolic commitment to sustainable research and experiential education on campus," the senior nature and culture major said. "By saving their trash and turning it into a building resource, students are forced to study their own lifestyle decisions and learn how to take responsibility for lessening their impact on the earth."

Research Conference in April.

The ultimate goal of the project is about education and student involvement. Student participation is critical to the collection of the trash and the physical production of the PLDs. Consequently, students gain the opportunity to learn about sustainability and waste management in a pragmatic way, Bird said.

"The project is about experiential learning; the intention is to let the students learn by doing," said Dr. Frank Loge, a professor of civil and environmental engineering and sponsor of the project.

By making students collect, clean and stuff their trash, Bird is hoping that the students become aware of the waste they produce. He is also hopeful that the process will open students' eyes to alternative ways of utilizing trash.